



Memories of Yesterday



At Town Meetings held in 1799 it was voted to divide Duxbury into four school districts and erect a schoolhouse in each. Each schoolhouse, which was to measure 24 by 26 feet, was to cost \$200. In those days people didn't care what they did with their money. (By the way, there is no record in Town Reports of any bills for extras submitted to the Selectmen for payment).

The residents of the northeast district built the Powder Point school on piles over a sunken marsh, instead of on nice solid land. This quaint location had certain advantages, of course. The kiddies, for example, could fish for minnows through the cracks in the floor (well, what do you expect for \$200?) or out of the west window. Land was cheap then, which heightens the mystery. And to cap the irony, the Town refused to pay for the marshland on which the Powder Point School was built.

Those were the days, children. The pupils' eyes frequently wandered from the slates and books, for the competition was fierce. Through the west windows the youngsters could watch the ships being built—ships that would sail the Seven Seas and make the name of Duxbury known throughout the world. And there was the eventful day when they caught a glimpse of the wedding of Mary Chilton Drew, daughter of Captain William Drew, to Mr. Edmund Fisher of Brooklyn.

How come the kiddies could drop their hooks for minnows during certain tides? Well, you must remember that when the Powder Point School was built in 1800 there was no Powder Point avenue. The marsh on which the school stood fronted on a parcel of land then owned by Charles Drew (it is now owned by Mrs. Frank Christian); and past the Drew house ran an old road that ran north past the house and then wound in a southeasterly direction to the beginning of Smith Lane.

The old school is gone now, but there is a marker on its site.

From a 1950 Clipper